

Subject: Bechtler coin press on display
in ANS Museum

Ward, Elvira L.

[Haaren High School
10th Ave + 59th St.]

1937

HARLEM HIGH SCHOOL
59 STREET AND 10 AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY.

OCTOBER 12, 1937.

THE CURATOR
THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
NEW YORK CITY.

DEAR SIR,

I VISITED THE MUSEUM THIS AFTERNOON, IN THE
HOPE THAT I COULD GET SOME SCIENTIFIC AND HISTORICAL
DATA ON THE COIN PRESS, IN THE MUSEUM. I AM THE
FACULTY ADVISER OF A SCHOOL SCIENCE MAGAZINE "THE
SCIENCE STUDENT" WHICH LAST YEAR WON SECOND PLACE
IN THE NATION WIDE CONTEST OF THE COLUMBIA SCHOLASTIC
PRESS ASSOCIATION. IF YOU COULD FURNISH ME WITH THIS
DATA, AND A PICTURE OF THE PRESS, WITH YOUR PERMISSION,
I AM VERY ANXIOUS TO RUN AN ARTICLE AND DRAWING
OF THE PRESS IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE MAGAZINE.

VERY TRULY YOURS,
ELVIRA L. WARD.

ALSO WOULD APPRECIATE SOME STATISTICS ON THE
SIZE OF THE COLLECTION OF COINS AND MEDALS OF
THE MUSEUM.

Oct. 14, 1937

Miss Elvira L. Ward,
Haaren High School,
59th St. & 10th Ave.,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Madam:

The coin press which we have that struck the Bechtler gold coins was presented to us by Mr. Julius Gutttag of New Rochelle in 1927. He picked this piece up from one of the descendents of the Bechtlers. This old press had been in their background for many years and it is said they used it to crack nuts on.

I do not know whether this was the only press that they used at the time nor when it was made. By the looks of it, it was undoubtedly made by some local blacksmith or machinist.

The Bechtlers operated between 1831 and 1852 at Rutherfordton, North Carolina and struck coins that came from local mines in Georgia and the Carolinas.

A full account of the Bechtlers and their coinage appeared in the Numismatist for September, 1929. Our copy of this is bound in a yearly volume but can be read in our library - probably the New York Public Library has this magazine. You are welcome to use our copy if you wish.

I am enclosing a photograph of this press.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks
encl.

R. WESLEY BURNHAM
PRINCIPAL

TELEPHONE
COLUMBUS 5-5049-50

BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
HAAREN HIGH SCHOOL
10TH AVENUE AND 59TH STREET
MANHATTAN

NOVEMBER 19, 1937.

Mr. HOWLAND WOOD,
THE AMERICAN MUMISMATIC SOCIETY.
NEW YORK CITY,

DEAR Mr. WOOD,

I LEFT MY REGULAR FOUNTAIN PEN AT HOME TODAY, BUT TRUST YOU WILL FORGIVE THIS GORY LOOKING MISSIVE, AS I AM ANXIOUS TO RETURN YOUR PHOTOGRAPH TO YOU. ONE OF THE BOYS MADE A SKETCH OF THE PRESS FRONT IT, AND WE OBTAINED THE DATA ON THE BECHTLERS FROM THE MUMISMATIST AT THE MAIN BRANCH OF THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY AS YOU SUGGESTED. I HAD BEEN UP TO OBTAIN THE DATA AT THE SOCIETY ~~SATURDAY~~ ^{WEDNESDAY} BUT IT WAS CLOSED. WE APPRECIATE YOUR COURTESY TO US MORE THAN WE CAN SAY, AND WILL MAIL YOU A COPY WHEN THE MIMEOGRAPHED "SCIENCE STUDENT" MAGAZINE IS READY SOME TIME IN JANUARY.

VERY TRULY YOURS,
ELVIRA L. WARD.